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**Title:**

Press statement - Northern Adelaide plains underground water supplies

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Pr.D. 16./70.

PRESS STATEMENT: 13/7/70.

FROM: THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)

SUBJECT: NORTHERN ADELAIDE PLAINS UNDERGROUND WATER SUPPLIES.

The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, today expressed concern at the deteriorating situation regarding the Northern Adelaide Plains underground water supplies.

Mr. Dunstan said the Department of Mines had for many years been investigating the underground water resources of the area and was very worried at the rapid depletion of these resources caused by the growth of the market gardening.

"It is now known that the amount of water available for this purpose is strictly limited, he said.

"Because of this it is only reasonable that the water that is there be shared among growers on an equitable basis."

Mr. Dunstan said investigations so far had enabled quotas to be calculated.

"All growers have been advised of these quotas and opportunity has been given for appeals against them to be made".

"All possible steps have been taken to ensure that every grower is given a chance to present a case for special consideration in this matter."

Mr. Dunstan said to enable usage to be measured installation of meters was essential.

He expressed his appreciation of the co-operation of most growers in installing meters.

"Unfortunately a small number of growers have failed to appreciate the seriousness of the situation and have objected to the installation of these meters.

"These objections must be overcome.

"If the present over-pumping of the Northern Adelaide Plains area is allowed to continue not only will the cost of pumping increase, but also, there is a very grave danger of salt water moving into the area from the sea or from the nearby saline zones".

Mr. Dunstan warned that this would ruin the underground

supplies for all time.

He gave an assurance that the Government would act firmly in the interests of growers and earnestly sought co-operation in the implementation of an equitable sharing scheme.

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